

What is claimed is:

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1. A fuel dispensing system, comprising:

a system controller;

at least one fuel dispenser in data transfer communication with said system controller, configured to dispense fuel to a vehicle; and

10 a transaction accounting delivery station in data transfer communication with said system controller, and located remotely from said at least one fuel dispenser, configured to optionally deliver a transaction accounting to the customer.

15 2. The fuel dispensing system of claim 1, wherein said at least one fuel dispenser is manually operated.

20 3. The fuel dispensing system of claim 2, wherein the customer is provided with an indicia at said at least one fuel dispenser at the completion of the fuel dispensing transaction, and wherein the customer optionally inputs said indicia at said separately located transaction accounting delivery station to obtain a transaction accounting.

25 4. The fuel dispensing system of claim 1, wherein said at least one fuel dispenser is automated.

30 5. The fuel dispensing system of claim 4, wherein customer identifying data is detected at said at least one fuel dispenser and at said transaction

accounting delivery station, and wherein the customer optionally receives a transaction accounting in response to positioning customer's vehicle proximate to said transaction accounting delivery station.

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6. The fuel dispensing system of claim 1, wherein said system controller is co-located with said at least one fuel dispenser.

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7. A system for delivery of a fuel dispensing transaction accounting to a customer, comprising:

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a system controller configured to produce an accounting of each fuel dispensing transaction associated with at least one fuel dispenser and a plurality of customers, each said transaction having associated therewith a unique indicia;

at least one fuel dispenser in data transfer communication with said system controller, configured to dispense fuel to a vehicle; and

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a fuel dispensing transaction accounting delivery station in data transfer communication with said system controller, and located separately from said at least one fuel dispenser, configured to optionally deliver to a customer an accounting of each fuel transaction, based on said indicia.

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8. A method of delivering to a customer an accounting of a fuel dispensing transaction, comprising:

fueling a vehicle at a first location;

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producing an accounting of the fueling transaction upon completion of the fueling operation; and

optionally delivering said accounting to a customer at a second location
5 remote from said first location.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein each accounting is identified by a unique indicia.

10. The method of claim 9, comprising the additional steps of:
providing said indicia to the customer at the completion of the fueling
15 operation at said first location; and

optionally receiving said indicia by the customer at said second location,
responsively producing said accounting thereby.

11. The method of claim 9, comprising the additional steps of:
sensing customer identification data at said first location prior to initiating
the fueling operation, and generating said indicia thereby;
sensing customer identification data at said second location, and
25 generating said accounting thereby.

12. A method of automatically fueling a customer vehicle, comprising:
sensing the presence of the vehicle at one of a plurality of fuel dispensing
locations;

receiving information about the customer, said information selected from the group consisting of customer identification, fuel grade selection, quantity of fuel requested, and customer account information;

5 transmitting said customer information to a host control and transaction processing unit;

receiving authorization from said host control and transaction processing unit;

10 automatically dispensing fuel into the vehicle;

transmitting the fuel quantity dispensed to said host control and transaction processing unit; and

15 optionally providing a transaction accounting at a location remote from said fuel dispensing location, by the method comprising:

sensing the presence of the vehicle at the transaction accounting delivery location;

20 receiving information about the customer;

transmitting said customer information to said host control and transaction processing unit;

25 responsively receiving from said host control and transaction processing unit, transaction information selected from the group consisting of date, time, customer account number, quantity of fuel dispensed, grade of fuel dispensed, price of fuel dispensed, transaction total, and advertising messages; and

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preparing and presenting to the customer an accounting of the transaction.

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13. An integrated robotic fueling facility, comprising:
a control and transaction processing unit;

a plurality of fuel dispensing stations in data transfer communication with said control and transaction processing unit, each fuel dispensing station comprising:

a sensor configured to detect the presence of a proximate customer vehicle; and further to obtain a unique customer identification indicia via operative communication with a transponder located on the customer vehicle;

an automated fuel dispenser whereby fuel is dispensed directly into the customer vehicle in response to authorization from said control and transaction processing unit; and

a display whereby fuel transaction information is dynamically displayed to the customer during and following fuel dispensing, said transaction information selected from the group consisting of fuel amount, fuel price, fuel grade, transaction total and advertising messages; and

a single transaction accounting delivery station in data transfer communication with said control and transaction processing unit, located separately from the fuel dispensing stations, comprising:

a sensor configured to detect the presence of a customer vehicle; and further to obtain a unique customer identification indicia via operative communication with a transponder located on the customer vehicle; and

a transaction accounting delivery system, whereby a transaction accounting is optionally automatically prepared and presented to the customer if the customer vehicle is placed proximate to the transaction accounting delivery station, the transaction accounting data being transferred from said control and transaction processing unit.

14. An integrated robotic fueling facility, comprising:

a control and transaction processing unit;

a plurality of fuel dispensing stations in data transfer communication with said control and transaction processing unit, each fuel dispensing station comprising:

a means for uniquely identifying a customer; and

an means for automatically dispensing fuel into the customer's vehicle;

wherein each fuel dispensing station automatically dispenses fuel into the customer's vehicle upon authorization by said control and transaction processing unit; and

a single transaction accounting dispensing facility in data transfer communication with said control and transaction processing unit, located separately from said fuel dispensing stations, comprising:

a means for uniquely identifying a customer; and

a means for delivering a transaction accounting to the customer;

wherein a transaction accounting is optionally delivered to the customer if the customer is identified at said transaction accounting dispensing facility, the transaction accounting data being transferred from said control and transaction processing unit.

15. The facility of claim 14, wherein the customer identification means comprises at least one passive transponder located on the customer's vehicle and an operationally compatible sensor located at said fuel dispensing station, said transponder transmitting a unique code to said sensor that identifies data selected from the group consisting of customer identification, fuel grade selection, quantity of fuel requested, and customer account information.

16. The facility of claim 14, wherein said customer identification means comprises a token containing machine readable indicia in the possession of the customer, and an operationally compatible sensor located at said fuel dispensing station, whereby said indicia is read from said token when the customer presents said token to said sensor.

17. The facility of claim 14, wherein said customer identification means comprises a biometric sensor located at said fuel dispensing station, whereby an indicia unique to each customer is generated by said customer presenting physical characteristics to said sensor.

18. The facility of claim 16, wherein said physical characteristics are selected from the group consisting of fingerprints, iris pattern, facial features, or genetic samples.

19. The facility of claim 14, wherein said transaction accounting delivery means comprises printing and delivering to the customer a paper receipt.

20. The facility of claim 14, wherein said transaction accounting delivery means comprises transmitting said transaction accounting data to a computer in the possession of the customer.